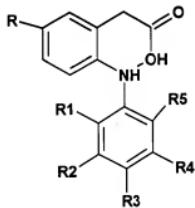


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the production of a compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof,



wherein R is methyl or ethyl;

R1 is chloro or fluoro;

R2 is hydrogen or fluoro;

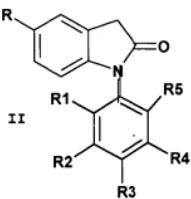
R3 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or hydroxy;

R4 is hydrogen or fluoro; and

R5 is chloro, fluoro, trifluoromethyl or methyl,

provided that R1, R2, R3, R4 and R5 are not all fluoro when R is ethyl and R3 is H;

comprising cleaving a lactam of formula II

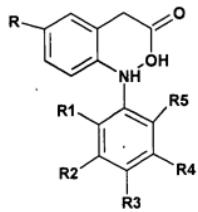


wherein the symbols are as defined above with a base; and in the above process, if desiredoptionally, temporarily protecting any interfering reactive groups and then isolating the resulting compound of the invention formula I; and, if desiredoptionally, converting the free carboxylic acid of the compound of formula I into a pharmaceutically acceptable ester derivative

thereof; and [;/or] if desired optionally, converting the free acid of formula I into a salt or a resulting salt of formula I into the free acid or into another salt.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula I as defined in claim 1 [.]



I

which comprises one or more of processes a) to n) as defined in claim 2 and optionally or a process according to claim 1.

4. (original)

5. (original)

6. (original)

7. (original)